

MINUTES**November 1, 1995**

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in regular session on Wednesday, November 1, 1995, at the Independence Township Municipal Building, Regina Lane, Great Meadows, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Director Dickey at 7:14 PM. Upon roll call the following members were present: Freeholder Susan Dickey, Freeholder Ann Stone and Freeholder Kenneth Miller.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Director Dickey.

Director Dickey read the following statement: "ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT BY FORWARDING A SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS TO THE WARREN COUNTY CLERK, THE STAR/GAZETTE, BLAIRSTOWN PRESS, THE NEWS, STAR-LEDGER AND THE EXPRESS-TIMES AND BY POSTING A COPY THEREOF ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS. FORMAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS AT THIS MEETING. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED. IN ORDER TO ASSURE FULL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, THOSE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE MEETING SHOULD SUBMIT ANY REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE".

Mrs. Dickey expressed the appreciation of the Freeholders for Independence Township hosting the November floating meeting. She indicated that there were no pre-determined topics for discussion, and asked for comments.

Mr. Robert Giordano, former mayor of Independence, opened the discussion on the well water pollution in the township. There has been a number of wells in the area that are polluted, and the affected residents are in the process of being hooked into the Hackettstown Municipal Utility Authority water supply. He asked when the water connections would be completed, and what the Board of Chosen Freeholders are doing to assist. Also, he asked what happens to the pollution underground when the polluted wells are capped? What can the freeholders do to help the township and its residents?

Mrs. Dickey indicated that she had received a letter from a township resident which raised a number of questions on this subject. For the time being, the freeholders are not involved as a Board, but they have followed the situation. She was unable to provide a direct answer at this time. She has called and asked for an update from the DEP, and expects to receive additional information tomorrow. She shares the concerns as to where it will spread next. She does not know exactly where the contaminated spot is located.

A citizen said that it is known that the contaminated spot is on ALR property, so it makes sense to start where the major pollution is located.

Mayor Van Pelt said she had a meeting in Trenton this date, and the DEP is supposed to be scheduling the cleanup with ALR. DEP says the township is not involved in the cleanup. The township's concern is for getting water, the rest is up to the DEP.

Mrs. Dickey asked where is the promised remediation and why is it taking so long? Where is the pollution going next? More homes are being tested and pollution is showing up. The township has a right to be concerned. This is the type of issue the environmental

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commission can be involved with.

Mr. Giordano stated this problem is eroding the property values and the citizens need political help. He wrote to the governor, and she sent it over to the DEP.

Mr. Miller indicated he thought it would be wise to get the township, county and state elected officials to ask for a meeting in Trenton with the DEP. It will be hard for the DEP to ignore those who provide their funding.

Mrs. Dickey stated she would arrange to get a meeting scheduled.

A resident said four years without remediation is unacceptable. Of 10 wells tested, 5 were found to be contaminated.

Mr. Miller asked if anyone had done a complete survey of the ALR property.

A resident said ALR has spent more than \$800,000 for lawyers and experts. They had a 3000 gallon tank of TCE(tri-chlor ethylene). They have built over the area of contamination since. The \$700,000 EDA gave to ALR has been available since May, but is not being used for cleanup.

Mr. Miller indicated that another way to purge the chemical besides allowing it to dissolve in the air is to use hydrogen peroxide.

Mrs. Stone thought the meeting should be scheduled in the township, not Trenton.

Mrs. Dickey agreed to try to arrange the meeting as soon as possible.

Ms. Van Pelt stated they cared less about how the DEP cleaned up the problem, just want it done.

Mr. Miller was not certain you would get DEP representatives to come to the township if they are going to walk into a lynch party. The only way to get results is to get them in a small meeting, not in a large group.

Mr. Giordano thought the governor should be included. This is a case of major pollution. She should attend or designate a delegate.

Mr. Stone thought this should be resolved as a people issue, not a political one. She thinks we need to proceed in a manner similar to the way things were done in the Harmony Township situation.

A resident, Mrs. Eagles, asked for the freeholders to help, as the citizens cannot get this problem resolved.

Mrs. Van Pelt reported that this incident has been sited as the worst pollution in New Jersey. In response to a citizen question, she said if a home is outside the "gray area" and the water line goes past your house, you may hook up, but at your own expense.

A citizen reviewed the situation in that ALR settled with DEP in January, 1995. They received a low interest loan of \$700,000 from the Economic Development Authority and ALR will pay \$1.2 million over a 10 year period. DEP probably has spent \$6 million on this problem. A citizen's group filed suit, and just settled for much less than they wanted. The biggest objection is that there is no remorse on the part of ALR.

Mr. Robert Best, former mayor, informed the attendees that the chemical attaches

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to granite, and only dissipates when it hits air. It is not easy to remediate.

There were numerous other citizens questions and comments regarding this issue, many of which were directed to the township officials present. Some citizens had not been attending the many meetings over the past several years, and did not have information on the problem. Some were relatively new residents, who are finding out that their area has this pollution problem. Many are concerned that the pollution will eventually spread to their properties, and they will be left holding the bag on major expenses or seriously depressed property values.

Mr. Best asked what is the criteria for appointment to the Economic Development Committee.

Mrs. Dickey responded that the nominations came from Mr. Miers, using an old list and addition to it from some of the private committee, and some from the agriculture board.

Mr. Best said there was one member who had been on the township planning board and he was always negative. The township lost many rateables.

Mrs. Dickey said it never occurred to her to check with the townships. The freeholders have asked for resumes for those seeking appointments.

Robert Best, Jr. said he had a problem with the environmental commission. He felt there was a promise to appoint 4 representatives from the agriculture community, yet only 2 were appointed.

Mrs. Dickey had asked the agriculture board to provide names, and they gave 4 names, but only 2 were appointed.

Mr. Best, Jr. asked why the commission wanted to hire Mr. Madonna as an attorney for an advisory commission.

Mrs. Dickey responded that she thought he could get the parties to sit down and resolve issues. He would know who could do what and how. His cost would be nominal for the services he would provide. The Board has not yet made a decision.

Councilman Pete Miller indicated concern with when 911 will come on line. the township pays \$28,000 for dispatch services, and pays to operate the county system as well.

Mr. Dinger reported that the freeholders had just been provided with a report of the status of the county's plans to take over dispatch services. There was again a caution to be sure dispatch and 911 are thought of a separate, so that citizens know that dialing 911 will get them emergency response right now.

Mr. Best questioned the article in the newspaper about the lack of SLAP for prisoners.

Mr. Dinger informed the freeholders that a letter had been sent to the state this date asking why they have not lived up to their responsibility to provide this service. The law requires the state to run a SLAP program unless the county opts to take responsibility. Warren County opted for the state to run the program. However, there are a number of people already doing community service instead of jail time, which was not reported in the press.

MINUTES**November 1, 1995****RESOLUTION 660-95**

On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held November 25, 1995.

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE 1995 GREEN ACRES, FARMLAND AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND BLUE ACRES BOND ISSUE

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Legislature and the Governor of the State of New Jersey have authorized a Green Acres, Farmland and Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Act Referendum to be placed on the November 7th General Election ballot; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Warren County will directly benefit from the passage of the Bond Issue; and

WHEREAS, the current Green Acres funding for State and local open space acquisition and recreational improvements has been exhausted; and

WHEREAS, the State's growing program for the preservation of farmlands is threatened by a critical shortage of funds; and

WHEREAS, the current resources for supporting the State's innovative matching grant program for historic preservation have been fully committed; and

WHEREAS, the State's coastal and inland areas prone to storm and flood damage need to be protected; and

WHEREAS, Warren County believes that the passage of the 1995 Bond Issue is necessary to improve the quality of life and to preserve New Jersey's agricultural base and historic heritage for present and future citizens of Warren County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren does hereby endorse the 1995 Green Acres, Farmland and Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren does hereby urge the voters of Warren County to vote for the 1995 Green Acres, Farmland and Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Issue on November 7, 1995.

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

s/Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller: yes Mrs. Stone: yes Mrs. Dickey: yes

On motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mr. Miller, and there being no further official business to come before the board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.
ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller: yes Mrs. Stone: yes Mrs. Dickey: yes

ATTESTED TO:

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk